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Botanical Notes.

Cypress Knees.—Accumulated facts render it much more easy to “put this and that together” and form reasonable deductions than in past times, yet nothing but shrewd guesses have been offered in explanation of the habit the *Taxodium* has, of throwing up the excrescences known as “Cypress Knees.” The generally accepted guess is that they serve to supply the submerged roots with air, but just how this tough woody tissue can act in this manner is not clear to the vegetable physiologist. This guess was in a measure supported by the statement that the tree produced knees only when in very swampy ground. I once believed this, but recently an instance came before me where on a dry bank, though near a lake, the knees were abundant. I have seen them in dry places in Mississippi and Louisiana, but I fancied the situations were once wet, when the knees were first formed. A writer in an English horticultural journal hazards a wholly novel guess that they are abortive suckers, and in support of this states that a tap-root is always found beneath a knee. This last statement of fact is wholly new to me, and I should be glad to know whether it can be confirmed by observations in our country.

THOMAS MEEHAN.

Specimens of our North American Roses of every species, variety and form, from all parts of the country, but more especially from the west coast, are greatly desired by M. F. Crèpin, to aid in the preparation of his forthcoming “Monograph Général.” Packages may be sent for this purpose to Dr. G. N. Best, Rosemont, Hunterdon Co., New Jersey. M. Crèpin will give due credit to all contributors in the pages of his monograph.

British Uredineæ and Ustilagineæ. Chas. B. Plowright, F. L. S., 8vo., about 270 pp. Price, 7s., 6d.

The above work, which will be published as soon as the requisite number of subscribers has been obtained, besides containing descriptions of the British species of these fungi, will also give a full account of their Biology, so far as this is at present known, including the methods of observing the germination of their spores, and of their experimental culture. Subscriptions should be sent to Messrs. Kegan, Paul, Trench & Co., 1 Paternoster Square, London, England.